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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	USSR/Austria (Soviet Zone)	REPORT NO.	50X1
SUBJECT	Proposed Changes in Soviet Army Uniforms	DATE DISTR.	19 May 1955
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SOURCE:		50X1
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**COUNTRY** USSR/Austria (Soviet Zone)**DATE DISTR.** 25 April 1955**SUBJECT** Proposed Changes in Soviet Army Uniforms**NO. OF PAGES** 2**DATE OF INFORMATION****REFERENCES:****PLACE ACQUIRED**

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**THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION**

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1.

(N 48-01, E 16-14), Austria, an order announced as originating from Bulgaria, the Minister of Defense, was read. The order affected uniforms issued to all Soviet Army EM in occupation zones and the Moscow Military District. All enlisted personnel were to be issued the following new items of uniforms for a three-year tour or normal obligatory term of service, in addition to currently issued items: The effective date of the order was to be 1 January 1955.<sup>1</sup>

- (a) One raincape with shoulder boards, cloth, water repellent, color unknown, for off-duty dress wear. Source saw an unidentified Soviet Army general wearing such a cape during a visit to his garrison sometime in summer 1954.
- (b) One tunic (gimnastërka), broadcloth, regulation olive green, for off-duty dress wear.
- (c) One pair of breeches, broadcloth, regulation olive green or blue, for certain unknown types of army units.<sup>2</sup> Source recalled that the types of units to be issued blue trousers were given but since his own unit was not included, he had no further interest and could not recall them.
- (d) One belt, leather, 4½ cm wide, to be worn with the above listed tunic.
- (e) One buckle, copper, size and description unknown, to be worn with the above listed belt.

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- (f) One cap, garrison (pilotka), broadcloth, regulation olive green, for off-duty dress wear.
  - (g) One pair of boots, leather (yalovyy), black, for off-duty dress wear.
2. In addition to the above-listed items, conscript NCOs were to receive a one-time issue of one hat, garrison (furazhka), broadcloth, regulation olive green, for off-duty dress and normal garrison wear. In lieu of the current semi-yearly issue of a cotton garrison cap, tunic, and breeches, all enlisted personnel would receive only four such sets of uniforms for on-duty wear during a three-year tour or normal obligatory tour of service. The periods of issue were unknown to source. This completed the order's provisions.
  3. Source stated that during November to December 1954 it was rumored among the EM of his unit that in 1955 the shoulder boards of the Soviet Army would be changed. 3 He also stated that the rumor which was spread stated that the only Soviet Army troops that would wear shoulder boards of a color other than the present magenta infantry boards, which he heard would be standard for the army, would be tank units. He said that this rumor was never verified by any officer, nor did any officer ever comment on it.

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1. Comment: [ ] reported a forthcoming and similar uniform change in Austria as the result of complaints by Austrian Communists on the seedy appearance on Soviet troops there.

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2. Comment: [ ] a former career NCO from the Berlin area also reported rumors of the wider issue of blue breeches to certain Soviet Army units. Details on this will be forthcoming in a report being prepared on Soviet uniforms in conjunction with the 587th QM TIT.

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3. Comment: A similar rumor was reported by [ ] a Soviet private from the Berlin area. See a forthcoming [ ] report on Soviet supply and transportation based on information supplied by this source.

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